

## **James P. Nataro, Paul S. Cohen, Harry L.T. Mobley, Jefferey N. Weiser (eds): Colonization of mucosal surfaces**

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Have you ever thought of mucosal surfaces as more than the site of frequent infections and chronic diseases? In fact, they do have an additional important role in maintaining health and in developmental processes, as recently described in a review article in *Pediatric Research* by David S. Newbury and W. Allan Walker entitled “Protection of the neonate by the innate immune system of developing gut and of human milk”\*. More of it is contained in “Colonization of Mucosal Surfaces”, by James P. Nataro, Paul S. Cohen, Harry L.T. Mobley and Jefferey N. Weiser, which gives an overview on the role of mucosal surfaces as part of our immune system and its interaction with micro-organisms. Throughout this book, which contains four sections, the positive interactions of normal colonizing flora with the immune system are

described as well as the mechanisms by which pathogens such as group A streptococci *Salmonella*, *Escherichia coli* and many others invade the organism. In the first section, you will find detailed information on structure and function of mucosal surfaces as well as on the defence mechanisms able to prevent microbial invasion. The next three sections describe the colonization of the respiratory, the gastrointestinal as well as the genitourinary tract. The quality of the chapters is high throughout the book.

Getting familiar with the biology of mucosal surfaces is probably the best way to convince people that you need very good arguments to prescribe antibiotics!

S.S.

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